Correspondence

To the Editor:

In a recent article, Offit et al. reported a novel translocation t(3;22)(q27;q11) in eight cases of diffuse non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL). We recently collected a similar t(3;22)(q28;q11) translocation in 3 of 134 cases of NHL with clonal chromosome aberrations prospectively ascertained between January, 1984, and August, 1988.

All three patients were classified as diffuse, large noncleaved cell lymphomas, and common characteristics were identified in both clinical and immunologic features. Clinically, all three patients were age over 53 years (range, 53 to 69), and all showed an isolated lymphadenomegaly without visceral involvement. Immunologically all three cases showed the same monoclonal immunoglobulin phenotype. In contrast to the five evaluated patients described by Offit et al., who showed λ light chains, two of our three patients expressed κ light chains. Similarly, a European case of t(3;22) in a large cell NHL, previously published by Berger et al., also showed κ light chain immunoglobulin. Thus, the expression of light chains in large cell lymphomas associated with t(3;22) appears to be variable.

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Response

We are pleased that Leroux et al. have confirmed the observation of t(3;22) in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). Of the 82 cases in our series with abnormal karyotype and diffuse large cell (DLCL) type, including diffuse large cleaved, noncleaved, and immunoblastic subtypes, evidence of B-cell immunophenotype at time of cytogenetic ascertainment was obtained in 53 cases. Of these, 13 (24.5%) showed t(14;18)(q32;q21), 8 (15.1%) showed t(8;14)(q24;q32), 4 (7.5%) showed t(3;22)(q27;q11), and 2 (3.8%) showed t(11;14)(q13;q32). While this reported incidence for t(3;22) in DLCL is identical to that reported by Leroux et al., the rate may reflect a selection bias, since immunophenotyping was not done in every case. We have subsequently studied the immunophenotype and/or immunogenotype in all 278 cases in our 4-year ascertainment; the relative incidence rates of translocations in B lineage DLCL are similar to those previously described.

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t(3;22)(q27;q11) in diffuse non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma [letter; comment]

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